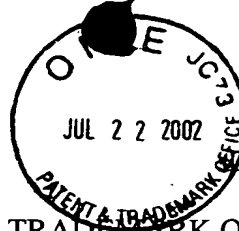


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : John H. Stevens
Serial No. : 10/047,581
Filed : 10/23/2001
Title : Devices and Methods for Port-Access Multivessel Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
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ELECTION AND AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 18, 2002, Applicants elect the species defined by the Examiner as Invention VI relating to Claims 7-8, without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to pursue claims for the remaining inventions.

In the specification:

Please amend page 1, line 7 to add the following paragraph as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/615,481 filed on March 25, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,338,735, which is division of U.S. Patent Application Serial

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